



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Kena Rice

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas
66101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING FROM COMMERCE BANK

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Stephen Downing**, 25, Overland Park, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on September 29, 2003, before Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum to one count of stealing money from Commerce Bank.

Melgren said that Downing admitted at his plea that from August 9, 2002, through March 7, 2003, while he was employed as a financial services representative at Commerce Bank, located at the Hen House Grocery Store, 1120 Antioch, Overland Park, Kansas, Downing stole approximately \$15,706 by writing checks on a customer's account and having these checks deposited into Downing's personal bank account.

Downing faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for December 29, 2003.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the FBI, with the assistance of Commerce Bank, in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.